

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (new): A discharge electrode clad material comprising:
a base layer composed of pure Ni or a Ni-based alloy mainly including Ni; and
a surface layer bonded to the base layer and composed of pure Nb or a Nb-based alloy mainly including Nb, the surface layer having a thickness of not less than about 20 μ m and not greater than about 100 μ m.

Claim 17 (new): A discharge electrode clad material comprising:
a base layer composed of a stainless steel; and
a surface layer bonded to the base layer and composed of pure Nb or a Nb-based alloy mainly including Nb, the surface layer having a thickness of not less than about 20 μ m and not greater than about 100 μ m.

Claim 18 (new): A discharge electrode clad material comprising:
a base layer composed of pure Ni or a Ni-based alloy mainly comprising Ni;
an intermediate layer bonded to the base layer and composed of a ferrous material; and
a surface layer bonded to the intermediate layer and composed of pure Nb or a Nb-based alloy mainly including Nb, the surface layer having a thickness of not smaller than about 20 μ m and not greater than about 100 μ m.

Claim 19 (new): A discharge electrode clad material as set forth in claim 18, wherein the ferrous material is a stainless steel.

Claim 20 (new): A discharge electrode clad material as set forth in claim 16, wherein the Ni-based alloy of the base layer includes not less than about 1.0 mass% and not greater than about 12.0 mass% of one or both of Nb and Ta, and the balance of Ni and inevitable impurities.

Claim 21 (new): A discharge electrode clad material as set forth in claim 17, wherein the Ni-based alloy of the surface layer includes not less than about 1.0 mass% and not greater than about 12.0 mass% of one or both of Nb and Ta, and the balance of Ni and inevitable impurities.

Claim 22 (new): A discharge electrode clad material as set forth in claim 18, wherein the Ni-based alloy of the base layer includes not less than about 1.0 mass% and not greater than about 12.0 mass% of one or both of Nb and Ta, and the balance of Ni and inevitable impurities.

Claim 23 (new): A discharge electrode clad material as set forth in claim 19, wherein the Ni-based alloy of the base layer includes not less than about 1.0 mass% and not greater than about 12.0 mass% of one or both of Nb and Ta, and the balance of Ni and inevitable impurities.

Claim 24 (new): A discharge electrode clad material as set forth in claim 16, wherein the base layer has a strip-like shape, and the surface layer includes at least one elongated surface layer bonded onto a portion of the base layer between widthwise opposite edge portions of the base layer as extending longitudinally of the base layer.

Claim 25 (new): A discharge electrode clad material as set forth in claim 17, wherein the base layer has a strip-like shape, and the surface layer includes at least one elongated surface layer bonded onto a portion of the base layer between widthwise opposite edge portions of the base layer as extending longitudinally of the base layer.

Claim 26 (new): A discharge electrode clad material as set forth in claim 18, wherein the intermediate layer has a strip-like shape, and the base layer and the surface layer respectively include at least one elongated base layer and at least one elongated surface layer bonded onto portions of the intermediate layer between widthwise opposite edge portions of the intermediate layer as extending longitudinally of the intermediate layer.

Claim 27 (new): A discharge electrode clad material as set forth in claim 16, wherein the surface layer has a thickness which is not greater than about 70% of a total thickness of the base layer and the surface layer.

Claim 28 (new): A discharge electrode clad material as set forth in claim 18, wherein the surface layer has a thickness which is not greater than about 70% of a total thickness of the base layer, the intermediate layer and the surface layer.

Claim 29 (new): A discharge electrode comprising:
a unitary press-formed body made of the clad material according to claim 16;
a tubular portion having an open end; and
an end plate portion that is integral with the tubular portion to close the other end of the tubular portion; wherein

inner surfaces of the tubular portion and the end plate portion are defined by a surface layer of the clad material.

Claim 30 (new): A discharge electrode comprising:
a unitary press-formed body made of the clad material according to claim 17;
a tubular portion having an open end; and
an end plate portion that is integral with the tubular portion to close the other end
of the tubular portion; wherein

inner surfaces of the tubular portion and the end plate portion are defined by a
surface layer of the clad material.

Claim 31 (new): A discharge electrode comprising:
a unitary press-formed body made of the clad material according to claim 18;
a tubular portion having an open end; and
an end plate portion that is integral with the tubular portion to close the other end
of the tubular portion; wherein

inner surfaces of the tubular portion and the end plate portion are defined by a
surface layer of the clad material.